



**Thomas F. Barraga**  
Suffolk County Legislator  
187 Sunrise Highway, Suite C  
West Islip, New York 11795  
(P) 631-854-4100  
(F) 631-854-4103

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**DATE:** August 14, 2015  
**CONTACT:** Susan Malone  
E-Mail: [Susan.malone@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:Susan.malone@suffolkcountyny.gov)



## ***BARRAGA: NEWS FROM THE 11<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT***

### **BARRAGA: HEROES AMONG US**



***SHOWN L-R; SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR TOM BARRAGA (R-WEST ISLIP) MICHAEL LADUCA, JASON DEAK AND JUSTIN DEAK***

Suffolk County Legislator Tom Barraga (R-West Islip) recently had the pleasure of presenting proclamations to four brave men in recognition of their life-saving heroic actions on Sunday, August 9th 2015.

Jason Deak, his brother Justin Deak and their friend Michael LaDuca, all off - duty volunteer firefighters at the West Islip Fire Department along with Deaks' father William Deak

were returning to the Bay Shore Marina after a day of tubing on the Great South Bay when they spotted something floating in the water. What appeared to be a paddle boarder from the distance turned out to be a nearly fully submerged boat with five people, all members of the Contreras family of Bellport, clinging for life.

Without hesitation their lifesaving training automatically kicked into action - William Deak dialed 911 and stood by prepared to pull them from the water while Justin Deak took command of the boat and backed it up to the Contreras family as Jason Deak and Michael LaDuca dived into the water to rescue each member of the family.

Suffolk County Marine Bureau officers also responded to the 911 call and dispatched three boats: Marine Juliet, Marine Kilo, and Marine Alpha. The West Islip and Bay Shore Fire Departments responded with fire boats and the Aviation Section of the Suffolk County Police Department was also on the scene to assist in the rescue.

All five members of the Contreras family are alive and well due to the actions of the volunteer and career "First Responders" who came to their rescue that day - men and women who risk their lives on a daily basis to make our communities a safer place.